

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 AID-05
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FOR EB/OFD AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON EAID
SUBJECT: WHEAT CONFERENCE: FOOD AID

1. CUPS - DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS THAT CURRENT TITLE I AGREEMENTS WITH PROVISION FOR CURRENCY USE PAYMENTS ARE CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO BE COUNTED FOR US CONTRIBUTION UNDER FOOD AID CONVENTION. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION THAT FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN NEW FAC DRAFT WOULD RETAIN THAT ELIGIBILITY: "6(B) SALES FOR THE CURRENCY OF THE IMPORTING COUNTRY WHICH IS NOT TRANSFERABLE AND IS NOT CONVERTIBLE INTO CURRENCY OR GOODS AND SERVICES FOR USE BY THE DONOR MEMBER (UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AN EXEMPTION OF NOT MORE THAN (10) PERCENT MAY BE GRANTED). 6(C) SALES ON CREDIT WITH PAYMENT TO BE MADE IN REASONABLE ANNUAL AMOUNTS OVER PERIODS OF TWENTY YEARS OR MORE AND WITH INTEREST AT RATES WHICH ARE BELOW COMMERCIAL RATES PREVAILING IN WORLD MARKETS (THE CREDIT SALES AGREEMENT MAY PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF UP TO (15) PERCENT OF PRINCIPAL UPON DELIVERY OF THE GRAIN)." WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE TO SEEK EXPLICIT LANGUAGE IN NEW FAC EXEMPTING US CUP PROVISIONS. IF SUCCESSFUL, SUCH AN EFFORT COULD OPEN THE

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DOOR FOR SIMILAR REQUESTS BY OTHER DONORS.

2. WFP - QUESTION HAS ARISEN AMONG US, CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN DELS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT FOOD AID IN GRAINS PLEDGED UNDER WFP CAN BE CREDITED AGAINST FAC COMMITMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT.

3. REQUEST MOST CURRENT ANNUAL DATA, IN DOLLARS AND TONNAGE, FOR US FOOD AID IN GRAINS TOTAL AND BROKEN DOWN ACCORDING TO GRANT, FAC CREDIT TERMS, AND OTHER TERMS.

4. DELEGATION STAFFING - IN ORDER TO STAVE OFF EC ATTEMPT TO GAIN INFLUENTIAL POSITION ON RESERVES AND WHEAT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO AGREE TO NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VAZNAUGH AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON WHEAT. SINCE WHEAT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN POLEZHAEV DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND ENTIRE CONFERENCE, VAZNAUGH IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALGERIAN CO-VICE CHAIRMAN WILL HAVE INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADDITION TO DELEGATION RESPONSIBILITIES ON RESERVES AND FOOD AID. IN LIGHT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DELEGATION URGES ACCREDITATION OF ADDITIONAL STATE OFFICER FOR WORK ON FOOD AID COMMITTEE. OFFICER SHOULD ARRIVE GENEVA BY FEBRUARY 28 AT LATEST.

(NOTE: US DELEGATION NUMBERING 19 IS RELATIVELY SMALL COMPARED TO DELEGATIONS OF OTHER PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS AT CONFERENCE. CANADA HAS AN ACCREDITED DELEGATION OF 22 MEMBERS, SWEDEN 14, JAPAN 40, AND EC REPRESENTATION TOTALS 60.) VANDEN HEUVEL

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